

# 21 TODAY

.....The Newsletter of Vision 21 in Gloucestershire.....



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## Merry Christmas!

**INSIDE** - *Inside— Job Advert for an Environmental Youth Worker, Get help with your composting, The winner of the Environmental Business Awards 2003 + Two Wins for Common Sense...*

### **Vision 21 – Statement of Political Neutrality**

An advert for 'Greening Up Gloucestershire', printed in the 'forthcoming events' section of *21 Today* has given unintentional offence to one political party, who interpreted it as being an advert for The Green Party. This was unfortunate. The notice, publicising a forthcoming environmental event, was NOT intended to endorse *any* political party:

Vision 21 has no political axe to grind. We have always been fiercely non-political and independent of **all** political parties (although, of course, some political parties seem more likely than others to embrace our principles). We work in partnership with individuals and organisations of *any* political persuasion – or of none at all. It is an unfortunate fact of life that Party Politics do tend to impede the cause of Sustainable Development, and have often seemed to be counter-productive at a local level.

*In summary: Vision 21 is a non-political, community-based, not-for-profit organisation. We promote Sustainable Development throughout Gloucestershire. To this end, we welcome notices of forthcoming 'Sustainability' events for our publications (e.g. 21 Today and The Edge) from **all** individuals and organisations – regardless of their political persuasions.*

**Graham Stanley – Chairman, Vision 21**



### **THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

has £100,000 available to help groups working in the County to provide opportunities for vulnerable young people.

The Gloucester-based Foundation is encouraging charities and community groups to apply for grants from two funds administered by them - the Local Network Fund and the Foundation's own Fund.

"We would welcome applications from community groups working to help vulnerable young people in Gloucestershire," says Sue Wright, the Community Foundation Grants Development Manager. "The Local Network Fund has £100,000 waiting for applications and we have money in our own fund too."

Grants of over £116,000 have been made from the fund over the last six months and have included: A kitchen refurbishment, a Christmas party for very sick children, equipment for a skateboard park, kit for a refugee football team, a summer school, two educational gardens, after school clubs, educational day trips and many more.

"The Network Fund grant has made an enormous difference to us this year," says Cloud 9, a charity providing respite care to children suffering ill health.

The Gloucestershire Community Foundation gives grants to groups working to combat any form of disadvantage in the county and these are available up to £2,500. and requests should be made to the Foundation office.

If you wish to apply to the Local Network Fund for a grant of up to £7,000 telephone the Call Centre for instructions and a form : 0845 113 0161.

To obtain an application form from the Gloucestershire Community Foundation please telephone 01452 656386 or write to us c/o British Energy Plc, Barnett Way, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 3RS or email [sue.wright@british-energy.com](mailto:sue.wright@british-energy.com)

### **Job Advert — Environmental Youth Worker**

A unique opportunity exists for a youth worker with a commitment to sustainable development to join the service's Environmental Education Team. This 6 months post will offer the successful candidate a chance to undertake a feasibility study to explore the potential for the development of further work in the county. This will include the management of 3 projects with young people and training for staff. For an informal discussion about the post please telephone Sharon Hockey on 01594 542687.

For an application form with details on any of the above, please telephone our 24 hour job line (01452) 426383.

**The closing date is 28<sup>th</sup> November 2003.**

**The interviews will be held at The Wilderness Centre on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.**

*Free to a Good Home!*

An 8 year old inkjet printer/scanner/copier (HP Officejet Pro 1150C) which I would like to see re-used somehow. It will need attention as it has an ink leak, but the scanner is OK. Cable included.

**If you are interested please call the V21 office on 01242 224321**

*Get help with your composting !*

*Alison Ensor and Rosalind Cookson are two new project officers of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trusts' brand new Don't Waste Wildlife project. The project promotes household and community composting, and wildlife gardening in the county over the next year.*

*For more information contact Alison or Rosalind at the Wildlife Trust on 01452 383333*

### **Two wins for common sense....**

It seems a long time since October 2000 when I prepared the Vision 21 submissions to the Public Inquiry for the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan. Well, we have just been presented with the County Council's 318 page (!) response to the Inspector's report. In short, we got what we wanted. At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2003, the County Council specifically excluded incineration at the four sites identified in the Plan, including Sharpness. We also achieved the addition of substantial protection of the Cotswolds AONB from waste-related developments compared to the rather weak words in the original draft.

**Chris Harmer.**

**We have a winner!!**

The Environmental Business award formed part again of the Gloucestershire Business Awards ceremony that was held at the Cheltenham Town Hall on the 22 October. This years winner is :

**Arjo Ltd**

**Arjo Ltd.- a company that produces people lifting equipment has instigated major changes in its manufacturing process in a way that really makes a difference to the environment in Gloucestershire:**

- ✓ Achievement of ISO 14001 quality status in March 2003.
- ✓ Paint plant chemical usage has been reduced by 30% thus cutting energy use and eliminating water pollution
- ✓ Company car exhaust Co2 emissions have dropped by a quarter
- ✓ Paper use has been cut by 25%
- ✓ Company wide training helped to introduce new measures
- ✓ Trial run of re-usable product packaging
- ✓ Recycling of cardboard, wooden pallets plastic cups, drink cans, batteries, aerosol cans, circuit boards
- ✓ Energy use has been reduced through "switch-off" campaign

The Environmental Business Awards are sponsored by the Gloucestershire Environmental Business Forum.

**We would also like to congratulate the two runners up Unilever & Ecotricity**

**We want to know about you too!**

- How many people in your household/organisation read 21 Today?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What articles/features do you enjoy the most? (For example; waste issues etc)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- We would like your suggestions; can we do anything better? Are there any areas of sustainability you would like covered in 21 Today?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please send your comments to the V21office 30 St George's Place Cheltenham Glos GL50 3JZ or Tel: 01242 224321 or email us!

## **Sustainability - one step forwards two steps back**

It is sometimes difficult to stay out of political issues when you **are** an organisation concerned with sustainability, which is all about social inclusion, poverty reduction, the environment and a sustainable economy. Stroud's bus station will close sooner or later to make space for a new cinema. The cinema in itself is highly welcomed and good news. The downside of it is that economic development is being prioritised over having a bus station. And the problem is not only where the bus station is going to be at the end of it all, but where the bus station is going to be while the old bus station is being developed.

The "final" plan is that there will be a bus train interchange in front of the train station. However, as there is not enough space to accommodate the 10 bus bays that will be lost from the bus station, the bus station will have to be divided into several areas: some bays will stay in front of the cinema, some will be in front of the station and the rest needs to be allocated to somewhere else.

Looking at Cheltenham where the buses are stopping in different places of the city already, lessons could be learned from the sometimes confusing layout of where to catch your connecting bus.

The intermediate plan can be described as chaos, which will leave people stranded down in Merrywalks and the possible loss of bus services from Stagecoach and traffic congestion for car drivers.

The existing central bus station has also served as a useful drop off and pick up point for people and school children who are sharing lifts to work and this in itself is an achievement of encouraging more sustainable modes of transport. Parish Councils, the bus users' group, the District and the County Council are all working hard to find possible alternatives, but there needs to be urgent support for the people who are dependent on the buses, that's all of us and school children. Please write to David Drew, the Stroud MP (5a Landsdown Stroud GL5 1BE, Tel:01453 764355) to let him know what you think, join the Bus Users' group and volunteer some hours for stalls in Stroud. Stroud needs a vision. After all, how can there be true regeneration without a well serviced public transport system at the core of it?

### **Food Links UK are holding a conference : "Local Food Links: Ideas into Action",**

at the Kindersley Centre in Berkshire on November 27th.

This conference is being organised jointly by Food Links UK, f3 - the local food consultants (a trading name of the Foundation for Local Food Initiatives), Sustain and the Soil Association. If you would like a hard copy of the flyer, a booking form, or **further information, please email the bookings co-ordinator, Sarah Bastable, at [conference@localfood.org.uk](mailto:conference@localfood.org.uk).**

**Alternatively you can contact f3, the conference co-ordinators, on 0845 458 9525, or write to Food Links UK, c/o F3, PO Box 1234, Bristol, BS99 2PG.**



**Social Enterprise Centre**  
TOOLS FOR INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE AND COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

### **Ongoing Marketing Support for Local Food Initiatives**

Developing and implementing effective, local marketing plans

**Do you want to make the most of the public interest in local food?**

**Do you need help in marketing your produce?**

Would you like to co-operate with other small producers?

**A series of seven meetings, starting end of November 2003, in which the same small group of growers and sellers will work together to support each other in developing and implementing individual marketing plans.**

**Who is this for?** Farmers, growers and small holders Stall holders and distributors  
Food co-operatives

There is an increasing demand for local food. There is also increasing pressure on both consumers and farmers from supermarkets offering cheap and convenient food shopping. This initiative supports the work of other organisations that are providing information and back-up to farmers and growers who want to market their produce directly to consumers.

**What you will do?** This series of practical workshops will help you pull together all that information.

It will provide a structure on which you can develop a marketing plan to suit your business. It will be a forum in which you can try out new ideas on fellow farmers, growers and local food people. You will be asked to make a plan of action at each meeting, carry it out and bring back your progress and learning to the next meeting. In this way everyone learns from everyone's successes and failures.

**Costs** This initiative is funded by Gloucestershire Agricultural and Rural Development programme, GARD, to help develop the local economy. There will a charge of £10 per session, otherwise GARD will cover costs and offer small bursaries to pay for information or exploratory visits. You can't loose! The starter workshop will explain the structure and start the action and learning process. If you decide to commit to the remaining 6 meetings you will decide on the timing and duration of the future meetings.

**To book a place on the first meeting contact Alison Parfitt, 152 Hatherley Road Cheltenham GL51 6EW Tel: 01242 584982  
alisonparfitt@phoncoop.coop**

**48c HIGH STREET STROUD GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL5 1AN**  
Tel: 01453 762271 email: claremahdiyone@hotmail.com

The Social Enterprise Centre is a project of Stroud Common Wealth Co.Ltd,  
a Not for Profit Company Limited by Guarantee. No. 3859422  
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**WHO'S WHO —  
The V21 Association**

**Office Address:** Vision 21 Office, 30 St Georges Place, Cheltenham, GL50 3JZ.  
Tel 01242 224321, Fax 01242 260258, or email: office@vision21.demon.co.uk

Vision 21 publications  
v21stroud@onetel.net.uk

**Opening hours:** Mon—Thrus 9 am—4 pm  
Friday 10 am—4 pm

**Local Authority Liaison Group**

**Cheltenham:** Carol Rabette:  
01242 264166

**Cotswolds:** Alison Brown:  
01285 623426

**Forest of Dean:** Alastair Chapman  
01594 810000

**Gloucester City:** Meyrick Brentnall:  
01452 396829

**Stroud:** Mark Sharwood:  
01453 766321

**Tewkesbury:** Chris Bosley:  
01684 295010

**Gloucestershire County Council :**

Rob Colley: 01452 425671 or  
Jaqui Taylor: 01452 425677

**Vision 21 office contacts :**

Nadine Smykatz-Kloss & Lesley Davies:  
01242-224321

Graham Stanley: 01453-766882

**V21 District Groups and Initiatives**

**Cheltenham Worker:**

Chris Hickey 01242-512334

**Gloucester City Group:**

Stephen McDonnell 01452-396209

**Churchdown Action Group:**

Leo Fletcher 01452 - 712336

**Vision 21 Council Members :**

Julian Jones; John Rhodes; Graham Stanley; Fred Wood, Jimmie Hepburn,

**Chairman :**Graham Stanley

**Council Sub Committees**

**Communications:**

Julian Jones 01452-814101

**Finance, Admin and Projects:**

John Rhodes 01452-812709

**Office contact for the Council:** Nadine Smykatz-Kloss 01242-224321

**St. Monica Trust Support Scheme  
- making hard times a little easier**

The St Monica Trust Support Scheme helps people who have a physical disability or long-term physical health problem and who live in Gloucestershire (or Bristol, Somerset, and Wiltshire). We help people of any age, tenants or home owners, living on their own or with family. The one thing that everyone has in common is that they have a low income, hardly any savings and are finding it hard to manage.

**We help in 2 main ways:**

we pay for items which will improve a individual's quality of life. So far this year we have given over 400 gifts including help with cookers, wheelchairs, fridges, bedding, heating, repairs, carpets and adaptations.

we give short-term grants of up to £20 each week to over 300 families and individuals. These grants are awarded to people who are in a crisis and to whom this extra money makes all the difference.

We also have grants of up to £10,000 available to organisations run by or for people with physical disabilities.

For more information or if you know someone who we could help, then please do get in touch.

**Contact:**

**Emma Beeston Support Scheme  
Manager St. Monica Trust Cote Lane  
Bristol BS9 3UN**

**Phone: 0117 949 4003 Fax: 0117  
949 4044**

**emma.beeston@stmonicatrust.org  
g.uk**

**Have a Happy New Year  
&  
See you in 2004!**